

THE ALPINE



October ♦ November ♦ December 2004

Cougar ♦ Squak ♦ Tiger ♦ Grand Ridge ♦ Taylor ♦ Rattlesnake

DNR Improves High Point

by Kelly Heintz, DNR Staff

This fall, Washington State Department of Natural Resources will apply for a NOVA grant to fund a law enforcement officer that will serve in the Mountains to Sound Greenway including Tiger Mountain.

You may have seen some changes at the High Point exit along the road that leads to the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area. DNR recently purchased the property at the east end of SE 79th street.

DNR put a gate across that road and is working with King County to transfer the road to DNR to put an end to a long history of garbage dumping and illegal activities in that area. DNR also purchased two properties along the west end of SE 79th with dilapidated home sites. Since the acquisitions, DNR has removed the homes, outbuildings and garbage and has completed significant restoration projects to restore the natural landscape.

Last year DNR in partnership with the Mountains to Sound Greenway trust removed two dumpsters full of tires and removed a retaining wall restoring the natural flow of a stream. This fall DNR will plant 100 conifers in areas that were formerly covered with blackberries and weeds.

DNR is grateful to the many volunteers working with Issaquah Alps Trails Club and Washington

Trails Association that worked hard over the last few years to clear the massive amount of fallen trees on Tiger Mountain from recent storms. Thanks to all the volunteers, most trails are open. DNR is working to acquire funding to repair the Swamp and Big Tree Trails, where much of the boardwalk was destroyed.

Taylor Mountain Plan Drafted

by Doug Simpson

Taylor Mountain, the prominent peak south of Tiger Mountain, is a part of the Issaquah Alps. Though it is seldom visited on club hikes, Taylor has an extensive network of trails and roads that remain an inviting opportunity for area hikers. Neglected perhaps but not forgotten, Taylor Mountain now has a public use plan and assessment that should eventually make it a more frequented site for multi-use area recreationists.

In July, a draft of the Taylor Mountain Public Use Plan and Trails Assessment was issued under the team of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the South Puget Sound Region and the Resources Planning and Asset Management Division. Active on the planning committee were Margaret Macleod, inter-agency coordinator, and Harry Morgan, Issaquah Alps Trails Club board member.

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Whenever possible, please use e-mail to contact any member listed below.

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IATC subsists on member donations only. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to the address above to help sustain our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps and local environment.

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to: furyfun2@aol.com
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

Issue deadlines: November 21 for January; February 21 for April; May 21 for July; August 21 for October.

Note: All telephone numbers are area code 425 unless otherwise noted.

President's Message - 4th Quarter 2004

by Doug Simpson

One of the biggest issues in the Issaquah area in recent years is that of the Southeast Bypass project. It has been a contentious, controversial issue that has not gone away—and one that could have serious impact on the hiking program of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. After discussion at the July board meeting, the IATC board voted unanimously to publicly oppose the SE Bypass.

A four-page letter documenting the club's opposition has been presented to the Issaquah Public Works Department for the SDEIS (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement). The letter—signed by advocacy vice-presidents Ken Konigsmark and Steve Drew and myself—states that the bypass would be “a permanent, landscape-altering, environmentally damaging road construction project that will forever degrade the character and quality of life in Issaquah while providing little or no long-term traffic relief.”

The club has hoped to influence the Issaquah City Council to vote by this time against the bypass—or at least to delay it by further exploring alternatives, particularly Second Avenue, which could be utilized at a fraction of the cost.

While acknowledging the current abysmal traffic problems in the city, the club letter identifies nine issues which it believes are all significant reasons to seriously doubt the feasibility of the bypass plan. Several of these issues are especially important to club hiking enthusiasts, whose values would be offended by the effects of the bypass.

Most notably, issue #6 states: “Significant negative impacts to popular, historic, recreational trails are not evaluated sufficiently and are unacceptable.” The bypass would “sever the city and its residents from their physical and emotional connection to the lands and trails of Tiger Mountain.” Trails that would be affected are the Issaquah Trail, the High School Trail, the Plateau Access Trail, and the entire Tradition Plateau.

Some areas would have sidewalks immediately alongside multi-lane roads. “Any bypass plans should include and evaluate pedestrian over-crossings of the bypass to enable continuing trail access and a connection of the city and its citizens to Tiger Mountain.”

In issue #7, the letter asserts: “Streetscape/sidewalk trail amenities are inadequate and must be addressed. The planned 14-foot sidewalk and trail along the lower (west) side of the bypass appears to have no separation from traffic, no landscaping, and no safety measures.”

Issue #4 speaks to “the expected significant, negative visual impacts,” citing that IATC believes “visual impacts will be severe, permanent and greatly damaging to the scenic, social and character values of the City.”

Issue #5 focuses on surface, groundwater and slope stability. “The current SDEIS doesn't adequately provide sufficient scientific, detailed information to guarantee that construction practices won't damage underground aquifers, surface flows, or create slope and retaining wall stability problems for years to come.” Similarly, issue #9 focuses on inadequate surface water runoff and groundwater infiltration issues.

“Wildlife considerations and protections are inadequate,” asserts issue #8. The letter suggests that the bypass would become “a major killing zone for the significant numbers of wildlife that migrate into the city from the Tradition Plateau.”

The letter concludes that even if the bypass did provide the projected traffic relief, “any traffic benefits would be marginal and short-lived at best. The worst of all cases would be to build such a permanently damaging roadway, at such great cost (dollars, character, quality of life, environment, and more).”

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President's Message, cont'd. from pg. 3

Those of you who feel strongly about this issue are encouraged to contact Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger and city council members to urge them to vote NO on the bypass and to seek other alternatives.

At its July meeting, the board unanimously passed a vote to expand the borders of its hikes to include the Mountains to Sound Greenway (or an hour's drive in any direction). This, of course, means that day hikes in the Alpine Lakes area are now officially approved. Any such hikes—most likely limited to the late spring to early fall months—must be approved by the IATC's hikes coordinator. See comments on this change in Fred Zeitler's "Hiker's Corner" column.

Members are reminded that although the IATC no longer assesses dues, it still needs money to operate. Please make sure that you continue to send your donations at least annually and consider that such donations need not be limited to the former dues payment of \$15. The cash inflows enable the club to pay for the Alpiner, print our books, pay for our tools—and provide you a free lunch at our October 9 20th anniversary party. I hope to see you there.

Taylor Mountain Plan, cont'd. from page 1

All Taylor Mountain roads and trails will remain open to hikers, though currently trails are closed from October 15 to April 15 due to "poor trail construction, tread and muddy conditions." It is hoped that in the future trails can be renovated or reconstructed, or new ones built, to minimize or eliminate seasonal closures.

Taylor Mountain is planned to be a multi-use recreation area. Equestrians and mountain bikers will have extensive access to the area, though mountain bikes will be excluded from areas that go into the Cedar River Watershed. Motorized use (ORV's) will remain prohibited.

Taylor Mountain has few access points. It can be accessed from the Tiger Mountain Summit along SR-18. Two routes provide access in the southwest region, the Hobart or Holder Creek Gate on 276th Ave. SE (just south of the SR-18-Hobart Road interchange) and the Watershed Gate on SE 208th St. in Hobart.

The plan recommends construction of a regional trailhead and gravel parking lot at the Hobart Gate entry. Besides ample parking, it recommends restrooms, an educational kiosk and accessible, barrier-free interpretive loop trails. A gravel parking lot/trailhead is also recommended for the Tiger Summit.

At least five revised trails are envisioned, ranging from a Carey Creek Loop (5.5 miles) to Outer Loop Trail (11 miles). Others are an extended Boot Trail, a Beaver Pond-Mt. Rainer View Trail and a Holder Creek Loop Trail.

Trail work would be completed in phases. Phase 1 would construct new trails and reroutes, including bridge construction for stream protection, the Carey Creek Loop and the Beaver Pond Loop. Phase 2 would construct the Hobart Gate trailhead facilities and a Hobart Trail Loop. Phase 3 would construct a trail between Tiger's NW Timber Trail and the Rattlesnake Mountain Snoqualmie Point Trailhead, providing additional links among the Issaquah Alps. Phase 4 would plan and construct a trailhead at the Tiger Mountain Summit.

The planning committee estimates that implementation of the public use plan would cost approximately \$2.6 million. Implementation is planned over a ten-year period. The result would bring existing trails up to excellent standards, three new trailheads and two interpretive trails loops, in all providing 21 miles of trails and 19 miles of roads in the planning area. Besides benefiting hikers, the Taylor improvements would be a boon for equestrians and trail-bikers.

An Island in the Sky

by Susan Duffy

Squak Mountain - Many of us have hiked there, but how many of us really know it?

A longtime Issaquah Alps Trails Club advocate, Joe Toynbee, calls Squak "An Island in the Sky." Our own local legend and historical figure, Harvey Manning, has referred to Squak Mountain as the "noble beast." The name Squak Mountain, associated with the sound of squaking birds and derived from the Native American word Issaquah, could have easily been renamed Bullitt Mountain after the generous gift in 1972 by the Bullitt family. Squak Mountain has many stories to tell.

Squak Mountain, the often overlooked quiet middle child, sits between two other well traveled and well documented hiking havens. Squak Mountain always seemed like a mysterious mountain with untold secrets – unknown..unexplored..and uncharted territory. Squak Mountain could not be ignored.

Doug Simpson, current President of Issaquah Alps Trails Club, took on the task of putting the mountain on the books. His new publication, "Squak Mountain - An Island in the Sky -A History and Trails Guide," provides not only a review of Squak Mountain's past, but also a close up look at the mountain as it is today. The book catches your interest right from the start with beautiful descriptions of seasonal changes and poetic impressions of this mysterious place. Those who have had a hand in the history of Squak have added their accounts, encounters and experiences on Squak Mountain. David Langrock, Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike leader and Board Member, gives us an overview of the trails and hiking opportunities in this wildland.

The stories bring back my own memories of hikes on Squak Mountain. On an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike, the group stopped for lunch and enjoyed the panoramic views of the fog covered valley with Mt. Rainier in the background. On another IATC hike, we passed under a beautiful arched tunnel of trees perfectly lining the trail. We then came upon a rock formation that looked like an open mouthed whale. We hiked past a quiet creek and headed back into civilization. On yet another late afternoon hike with a friend, we passed huge moss-covered boulders, questioned our directions at each fork in the road, and raced the setting sun back to the trailhead. We did not see a single person on the trails that day. On Squak you can easily get lost if you aren't careful. Doug Simpson's book helps to map the mountain historically and in current prospective.

From mining days to logging days, to a cabin in the woods to things lost and found, this book unlocks some of the mysteries of the "noble beast." Squak Mountain is one of the last remaining frontiers of discovery located in our own backyard. This book has given me a greater knowledge and respect for Squak Mountain. It has sparked my interest to further explore the mountain and uncover more of the secrets hidden there.

"Squak Mountain - An Island in the Sky -A History and Trails Guide," will be sold at the Issaquah Alps Trails Club booth at Salmon Days and can be ordered through Alpiner forms.

Club Celebrates 25 Years

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club will have a busy October with its participation in Salmon Days October 2-3, followed by its October 9 celebration of 25 years of the club's existence.

The club will once again maintain a booth in the Fish Hatchery area during Salmon Days. Members will have club literature on hand and will sell books and maps. Doug Simpson, author of the recently published "Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky," will be on hand from 12-3 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday to sign copies of the book.

The 25-year celebration will be held at Gibson Hall on Newport Way across from the fish hatchery from 2-5 p.m. on the 9th. It will be an indoor/outdoor activity (depending on the weather) with free food and beverage provided by the club. All interested hikers and their families are invited to attend, and it is hoped that those active in the club in its early years will be on hand to share memories and fellowship.

Earlier in the day the club will hold two hikes in the area, hikes that should end in time to bring hikers to the party for refreshments. See the hikes schedule in the center section for details on these hikes.

The IATC commenced operations in the spring of 1979 under the leadership of club icon Harvey Manning. It has evolved over the years from an advocacy organization and part-time hiking club into an organization with a three-pronged purpose: hiking, trail building and maintenance, and advocacy.

Hiker's Corner

As previously noted, we are having record turnouts on our hikes. For the first quarter of the year we had 355 hikers on 38 hikes; for the second quarter we had 506 hikers on 45 hikes. About half of these attendees are first year hikers with IATC.



Many of our hikers have asked why we don't expand our hike offering in the summer and go to some of the Alpine Lakes destinations. We tried some "out of region" hikes and they proved very popular. We reviewed the question of broadening our hike offering at the July board meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to offer hikes along the "Mountain to Sound Greenway" corridor (hikes along I 90 up to exit 52). We will start some of these hikes in the October quarter, in addition to the traditional Issaquah Alps hikes.

Since some of these trips will be in the Alpine Wilderness area with restriction of 12 people per group, hikers will need to schedule with hike leaders before the hike. Hikers should also be prepared to carpool and contribute to gas and trailhead pass expenses. Details will be listed with each hike on the schedule.

--Fred Zeitler

Looking for hiking guides and maps to the Issaquah Alps ?

Check out our back cover for a complete list of detailed hiking guides, trail maps and hikes for the entire family covering the Issaquah Alps.

The Search For Trail Funds

by Margaret Macleod,
Interagency Coordinator

For 2004, the "Issaquah Alps" and Upper Snoqualmie Valley Interagency Committee, comprised of local, state and federal agencies,* have submitted several grant applications to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) for trail maintenance and construction projects located along the I-90/Mountains to Sound Greenway Corridor. These trail projects include:

- Mt. Si Trail – Phase 2
- Rattlesnake Mountain Trail (RMT) Completion
- West Tiger Mountain NRCA Trails Maintenance
- South Mountain Trails – Squak Mt. State Park Trails Maintenance
- Twin Falls Trail Rehabilitation

This fall, the committee also plans to submit Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) grant applications to the IAC for the following projects:

- Swamp and Big Tree Trails Construction
- Snoqualmie River Valley Education & Enforcement
- Mailbox Peak Trail Construction – Phase 1 (maybe)
- CCC Trail & Mt. Si Trailhead Planning
- Mt. Washington Trail Construction – Phase 1.

A couple of other project submittals are being considered for NOVA grant program funds but the agencies have not yet decided whether to submit them or defer until next year. Due to all of the trail damage that occurred this last winter, the agencies are trying to focus on maintenance and reconstruction of the existing trail system before embarking on the building of "new" trails. Although with some of the "new" trails that are being proposed, such as the Mailbox Peak and Mt. Washington

TRAILWORK SCHEDULE

REGULAR EVENTS

= *Open To All* =

Oct 10, Nov 6, Dec 4

9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

= *May be Open - Inquire* =

Office groups, students, scouts, social club, etc. Groups of 4-25
Most weekdays & weekends available

Dates to be scheduled

Times & locations vary. Inquire.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Dress as for hiking, but plan to get dirty. Sturdy shoes; consider rain gear; long sleeves, double-stitched knees. Water and snack.

We provide tools.

QUESTIONS? Contact Scott:

SSemans@aol.com 425-369-1725
No RSVP needed for regular events.
Call first to confirm if *serious* rain.

Trails, there are existing trails to the top of the mountains, they are considered "social" trails and do not meet agency trail construction standards, and are therefore considered new trail projects.

Also, the City of Issaquah and Washington State Dept. of Transportation partnered in a TEA-21 grant application to fill a "missing link" of the cross-state I-90 and regional trail system: the Issaquah – High Point Regional Trail Connector. This project would link the Issaquah – High Point Trail with the East Lake Sammamish Regional

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October

Sunday, October 2-3
Salmon Days

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 AM
Squak Mountain

From Sunrise to Thrush Gap, return via Phil's Creek, Eastside, Eastridge Trails.
3C, 7 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Doug Simpson 425-392-6660

Saturday, October 9, 12:30 PM
Issaquah Walk

Ramble through Issaquah Creek open space in the city of Issaquah
1A, 3 miles, 300 ft. gain
Dave Kappler 425-392-3571

Saturday, October 9, 2:30 - 5:00 PM

IATC 25 Year Anniversary BBQ
Come celebrate our anniversary with old friends and food and drink.
Gipson Hall (across from Salmon Hatchery)

Sunday, October 10, 9:00 AM
Cedar Butte

Easy hike to very nice views
2B, 4-5 miles, 1000 ft. gain
Jackie Hughes 425-641-3815

Sunday, October 10, Call leader for time
Kendall Katwalk

Hike one of the prettiest segments of the Pacific Crest Trail. Option to go to Ridge Lake.
3D, 10-12 miles, 3000 ft. gain
Wilderness group size limit is 12. Call leader for reservation and time
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Friday, October 15, 9:30 AM
NW Cougar Loop

Full circle between Red Town and Anti-Aircraft Peak
2B, 6 miles, 900 ft. gain
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 AM
West Tiger 2

Hike to great views utilizing High Point Trail, TMT, K3 and others
3C, 8-10 miles, 2400 ft. gain
Scott Prueter 425-369-6016

Saturday, October 16, 10:00 AM
Tradition Lake Plateau

Easy loop around Tradition Lake and Round Lake

1A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday, October 17, 8:30 AM
Poo Poo Point Roundabout

From trail center, High School Trail, then Section Line, Seattle View, TMT, TM Road, Poo Poo Point and trail back to High School Trail and trail center.
4D, 12 miles, 3500 ft. gain
Skip Geege 425-451-2108

Sunday, October 17, 10:30 AM
Cougar Mountain

Hike up Lewis Creek Canyon among moss covered rocks and trees. Hiking staff helpful for stream crossing.
2B, 4 miles, 600 ft. gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Saturday, October 23, call leader for time
Melakwa Lake

Trail starts in old growth forest. In one mile it crosses Denny Creek on new bridge, then past Keekwulee Falls and Snowshoe Falls to beautiful Alpine Lake.
3C, 9 miles, 2300 ft. gain
Wilderness group size limit is 12.
Call leader for reservation and time.
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Sunday, October 24, 8:30 AM
Squak/Cougar Roundabout

From North Squak to Central peak, then West Side Trail down to SR 900. Now up on Connector to wilderness Peak, Clay Pit, Bear Ridge back to SR900 then a grueling climb back to cars.
4D, 10-12 miles, 3400 ft. gain
Skip Geege 425-451-2108

Sunday, October 24, 9:00 AM
Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Popular hike to three rocky ledges with great views of Snoqualmie Valley.
2C, 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Mary Nolan 425-837-1535

Saturday, October 30, call leader for time
Mt. Defiance

Strenuous hike on new trail to Mason Lake, then to the summit for spectacular views
4D, 11 miles, 3500 ft. gain
Wilderness group size limit is 12.
Call leader for reservation and time
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Saturday, October 30, 9:30 AM
Poo Poo Point

One way hike up Chirico Trail to popular destination. Return via High School Trail. Car shuttle.
3C, 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Dennis Harney 206-545-2829

Sunday, October 31, 9:00 AM
South Tiger

Easy hike on TMT to Otter Lake, then up to great lunch spot.
Return via S. Tiger traverse
3C, 7 miles, 1600 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

November

Saturday, November 6, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mtn. Circumambulation.

Circuit hike from AA peak.
3C, 7-8 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday, November 7, 8:30 AM
Annette Lake

A nice stroll across Humpback Creek and up through old growth forest to beautiful Alpine Lake.
3C, 7.5 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Sunday, November 7, 1:00 PM
Lake Sammamish Ramble

Loop hike using East Lake Sammamish Trail, Pickering Trail and trails in state park.
2A, 4-5 miles, 0 ft. gain
Dave Kappler 425-392-3571

Monday, November 8, 7:00 PM
IATC Board Meeting

Issaquah Trails Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah

Wednesday, November 10, 8:30 AM
North Cougar Loop

Leader's choice. Starting at I-90, Exit 13 trailhead we will climb the north side of Cougar Mountain on way to Wilderness Peak. We'll cover neighborhood trails, paved roads and an exploratory loop back to cars.
3C, 8-10 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, November 13, 9:00 AM
Tiger Mountain

Loop hike from trail center to Plateau and to talus caves via Section Line Trail
2C, 6 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Saturday, November 13, 10:00 AM
Tradition Lake Plateau

Easy stroll around Tradition Lake and Round Lake.
1A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday, November 14, 9:00 AM
Poo Poo Point

One way hike, up Chirico Trail. Return via High School Trail to trail center. Car shuttle.
3C, 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

Sunday, November 14, 10:30 AM
Cougar History Hike

100 years of Newcastle history. More history than hike.
2A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Saturday, November 20, 9:30 AM
Dirty Harry's Balcony

Short but rewarding hike to great views, east to Bandera, south to McClellan Butte, west to Washington and the concrete swath of I-90.
2C, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday, November 21, 8:30 AM
Squak Exploratory

We'll visit little known and well known trails from Tibbetts Park to both Squak's Central and West Peaks as we loop back to our starting point.
3D, 9-10 miles, 2800 ft. gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, November 21, 9:00 AM
Snoqualmie Ridge

Easy hike on trails and on roads through Snoqualmie development.
2B, 7 miles, 700 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 PM
Hike Leader's Meeting

Trail Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah

Thursday, November 25, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mountain

Thanksgiving hike to work up an appetite for the turkey feast. Short workout loop hike to wilderness Peak and 1/2 mile side trip to Longview Peak.
2C, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Saturday, November 27, 8:30 AM
East Rattlesnake Peak

Hike past the ledges up to East Peak with great views of Snoqualmie Valley.
3D, 9 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Saturday, November 27, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mountain

Easy stroll past Far Country Fall to Far Country Lookout. Return on Indian Trail with Coal Creek Falls option.
2B, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

Sunday, November 28, 9:00 AM
Squak Mountain

Perimeter Loop hike to familiar and seldom visited places.
3C, 9-10 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson 425-392-6660

December

Saturday, December 4, 9:00 AM
East Tiger

We'll visit the highest Tiger Peak via seldom used trails. Return via a road walk.
2C, 7 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Sunday, December 5, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mountain

Perimeter Loop hike with stops at De Leo Wall, Longview Peak, Clay Pit and AA Peak.
4C, 12 miles, 2300 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Sunday, December 5, 10:00 AM
Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from trail center to Plateau and around 2 lakes.
2B, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler 425-392-3571

Saturday, December 11, 9:00 AM
Squak Mountain

Loop hike over Central Peak, Bullitt fireplace and West Peak to great views of Mt. Rainier
3C, 7-8 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Scott Prueter 425-369-6016

Sunday, December 12, 9:00 AM
Middle Tiger

Hike from Hwy 18 and then TMT up to Middle Tiger.

3C, 8 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson 425-392-6660

Sunday, December 12, 10:30 AM
Cougar Mountain

Hike Nike launch site to Nike H.Q. on Anti-aircraft peak. Cold war history on sites.
2A, 4 miles, 400 ft. gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Checklist:

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

Don't leave the trailhead without them!

Saturday, December 18, 9:00 AM
W. Rattlesnake Ridge

Hike new trail and some logging roads to two scenic views.
2C, 6.5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

Saturday, December 18, 10:00 AM
Cougar Mountain

Hike to AA peak from Newport Way.
2C, 6 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday, December 19, 9:00 AM
Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Popular hike to rocky ledges and great views of Snoqualmie Valley
2C, 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Sunday, December 26, 9:00 AM
West Tiger 2 and 3

We'll hike a number of trails to great views.
3C, 8-9 miles, 2300 ft. gain
Richard Mann 425-391-0410

County Council Talks Recreation

by Doug Simpson

As part of its Community Town Hall program, the Metropolitan King County Council met July 26 at Marymoor Park in Redmond. The focus at this meeting was "Parks, Recreation and Public Lands." The program focused around two panel discussions involving experts on finances, conservation and planning speaking about plans to overcome budget shortfalls and expand park programs and opportunities in the future.

Larry Phillips, co-chairman of the council, noted that the county has more than 25,000 acres of parks and recreational facilities that council members are proud of, but called it a "daunting time" to find the funds to sustain the programs, even despite the parks levy passed in May 2003.

"When I took over as chair of the Parks Commission in 2000," said Carolyn Edmonds, "I learned that it was essentially broke." Edmonds has made extensive efforts in the meantime to get to know the parks, the facilities and the staff.

One panelist, Pam Bissonnette, pointed out that a \$26 million budget was cut in half, forcing a loss of hundreds of positions.

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Much of this work, Chapman pointed out, was the result of 130,000 volunteer hours in the past year.

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The Search For Trail Funds

by Margaret Macleod,
Interagency Coordinator

For 2004, the "Issaquah Alps" and Upper Snoqualmie Valley Interagency Committee, comprised of local, state and federal agencies,* have submitted several grant applications to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) for trail maintenance and construction projects located along the I-90/Mountains to Sound Greenway Corridor. These trail projects include:

- Mt. Si Trail – Phase 2
- Rattlesnake Mountain Trail (RMT) Completion
- West Tiger Mountain NRCA Trails Maintenance
- South Mountain Trails – Squak Mt. State Park Trails Maintenance
- Twin Falls Trail Rehabilitation

This fall, the committee also plans to submit Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) grant applications to the IAC for the following projects:

- Swamp and Big Tree Trails Construction
- Snoqualmie River Valley Education & Enforcement
- Mailbox Peak Trail Construction – Phase 1 (maybe)
- CCC Trail & Mt. Si Trailhead Planning
- Mt. Washington Trail Construction – Phase 1.

A couple of other project submittals are being considered for NOVA grant program funds but the agencies have not yet decided whether to submit them or defer until next year. Due to all of the trail damage that occurred this last winter, the agencies are trying to focus on maintenance and reconstruction of the existing trail system before embarking on the building of "new" trails. Although with some of the "new" trails that are being proposed, such as the Mailbox Peak and Mt. Washington

TRAILWORK SCHEDULE

REGULAR EVENTS

= Open To All =

Oct 10, Nov 6, Dec 4

9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center

SPECIAL EVENTS

= May be Open - Inquire =

Office groups, students, scouts, social club, etc. Groups of 4-25
Most weekdays & weekends available

Dates to be scheduled

Times & locations vary. Inquire.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Dress as for hiking, but plan to get dirty. Sturdy shoes; consider rain gear; long sleeves, double-stitched knees. Water and snack.

We provide tools.

QUESTIONS? Contact Scott:

SSemans@aol.com 425-369-1725
No RSVP needed for regular events.
Call first to confirm if serious rain.

Trails, there are existing trails to the top of the mountains, they are considered "social" trails and do not meet agency trail construction standards, and are therefore considered new trail projects.

Also, the City of Issaquah and Washington State Dept. of Transportation partnered in a TEA-21 grant application to fill a "missing link" of the cross-state I-90 and regional trail system: the Issaquah – High Point Regional Trail Connector. This project would link the Issaquah – High Point Trail with the East Lake Sammamish Regional

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County Council Talks Recreation

by Doug Simpson

As part of its Community Town Hall program, the Metropolitan King County Council met July 26 at Marymoor Park in Redmond. The focus at this meeting was "Parks, Recreation and Public Lands." The program focused around two panel discussions involving experts on finances, conservation and planning speaking about plans to overcome budget shortfalls and expand park programs and opportunities in the future.

Larry Phillips, co-chairman of the council, noted that the county has more than 25,000 acres of parks and recreational facilities that council members are proud of, but called it a "daunting time" to find the funds to sustain the programs, even despite the parks levy passed in May 2003.

"When I took over as chair of the Parks Commission in 2000," said Carolyn Edmonds, "I learned that it was essentially broke." Edmonds has made extensive efforts in the meantime to get to know the parks, the facilities and the staff.

One panelist, Pam Bissonnette, pointed out that a \$26 million budget was cut in half, forcing a loss of hundreds of positions.

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The message was that it isn't going to be easy to do so with the current limited resources, but many good people desiring more and better parks are working hard to bring about the desired improvements.

Effects Of Heavy Trail Use

by Mike Stenger

(Reprint Permission from
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust)

As land use in the region of the Greenway reflects a transition in use in the past decades, moving from rural and bucolic roots to more urban and suburban communities, and as the region's population has expanded, the trail system that many of us know and love is also going through a related transformation.

Trails that were known only to a few now are widely publicized in papers, maps, books, magazines and on the internet. On weekends many trailheads are over-filled with cars and SUVs as more of us seek the pleasures of the trails. Where once only a few hundred people a year explored a trail, now a few hundred in a weekend is not uncommon.

What does this growth in trail use mean for our trails? For one, it means that how a trail is designed becomes more important as use levels rise. A trail that may originally have been envisioned as a simple means to get from road to viewpoint now must be reconsidered for its level of use, type of use, environmental impacts, safety, rate of deterioration and costs to maintain. In short, the design of the trail corridor has become an important factor for managing current uses and anticipating use in the future.

How do usage levels influence a trail design?

The answer will vary a great deal from trail to

trail, based on types of use and soil conditions, but here are a couple of common factors:

High use trails experience a lot of two-way traffic, and the width of the tread will need to accommodate that. This may seem obvious, but a successful trail design has to keep people on the trail. If that doesn't happen, users will invariably step off on the downslope side, causing the tread to slip down the hill over time, a common maintenance issue.

The steepness of a trail is also an important consideration. Generally, the steeper a trail is, the harder and more expensive it is to maintain. A trail that is not too steep will be kept in place by the feet of the users, whereas a trail that is too steep is constantly being incrementally worn away by those same feet. Next time you are on a trail, notice whether you are setting your entire foot down as you ascend, or if you are tending to stay on the balls of your feet. If you are doing the latter, then you are contributing in a tiny, fractional sense to the erosion of the trail.

Instability of the tread on high use trails is also increased by severely wet or dry conditions. The fact that we love to hike our trails year-round definitely impacts the condition of the trail system. On many of our higher elevation trails, the worst damage occurs when early season hikers encounter snow melt. All that melt-water carries away trail tread material when passing feet churn it up. Conversely, very dry conditions of late summer will cause some trail tread to lose its elasticity, leaving it much more prone to being dislodged by passing feet. That loosened material is then either washed or literally walked off the trail.

A good trail design will take the impacts of use into account and seek to minimize those impacts so that the trail can be effectively maintained for all of us to enjoy.

The Seach, cont'd from page 7

Trail from the new Sunset Interchange, paralleling the north side of I-90, to the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The Trails Evaluation Committee is recommending to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) that the project be funded, however the PSRC will not take action on the funding of projects until late fall 2004.

Other trail related projects include the preparation of the Taylor Mountain Public Use Plan and Trails Assessment. King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks, City of Seattle – Cedar River Watershed and the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources obtained a planning grant from the IAC for the preparation of the public use plan. The plan is to review and determine appropriate low-impact recreational opportunities in the greater Taylor Mountain area and address access concerns, trail conditions and damage to natural resources across jurisdictional boundaries.

King County DNR & Parks staff completed the Trails Assessment this past winter and spring and the draft Public Use Plan was available for review during the summer. The final plan will be completed during the fall. With completion of the plan, the agencies will be able to submit trail and facility construction grant applications to the IAC thus improving the trail system for non-motorized recreational users.

With reduced agency budgets from the local to federal levels, trail construction, rehabilitation and maintenance funds have also been reduced, thus increasing the need to seek grant funding for trail projects. While the agencies have enjoyed a long partnership with trail organizations for the volunteer maintenance of trails, the need to continue this valuable partnership for trail maintenance is greater than ever. We will continue to work with the IATC and other non-profit trail organizations for the maintenance of a trail system not only within the "Issaquah Alps" but throughout the I-

90 corridor/Mountains to Sound Greenway. Again, thank you for all of your past (and future!) trail maintenance activities; your efforts are appreciated by all of us.

*"Issaquah Alps" and Upper Snoqualmie River Valley Interagency Committee: City of Issaquah, City of Seattle – Cedar River Watershed, King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks, Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and, United States Forest Service – Snoqualmie District.

Cougar To Get New Trailhead

With a target date of November 17, a new parking area and trailhead is in the works for the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. The location is the lower Nike site on the west side of Cougar, north of the present Red Town site.

The plan involves removing considerable concrete, asphalt, fencing, metal and trash, then constructing a parking area for fourth cars and eight pull-through horse trailers. Restroom facilities are not included in this phase of the project, though native plantings will be incorporated into the site.

Designer Portico Group has issued a 90-day contract for the job to Wilder Construction. "This is going to be a really nice spot for visitors to the park," said Leslie McLean of King County Parks.

Hiking Information

Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round unless severe conditions pose a safety hazard. Minimum attendance is three, including the leader.

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat—or all the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As volunteers, neither hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), or Club directors are in any way responsible or liable for a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or hiking or working on any trail.

The Club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups, and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no dogs on hikes.

Hike Classifications

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate hiking time and letters indicate degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours Class 3: 6 hours
Class 2: 4 hours Class 4: 8 hours

These are approximate hiking times. They do not include travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 40 minutes depending on the location of the hike) or meal times (lunch will add another 20 to 40 minutes depending on the mood of the group).

Times are based on an assumption of a two-mile-per-hour pace with one-half hour added for each 1000 feet of elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards could extend the hiking time.

Degree of Difficulty

A: Little or no elevation gain, up to 500 feet, no difficulties for average walker.

B: Some climbing, up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty.

C: More climbing, up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty.

D: Much climbing, over 2500 feet of elevation gain.

Hike Description Modifiers

Leader's choice: The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hikes schedule.

Trail party: Trail maintenance work party.

Exploratory: The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades.

Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers, and/or mud while having a

continued on page 14

Hike Information, continued

good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Family hike: For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

NOTE: Group hikes do not lend themselves to dogs. Please leave your dogs at home when going on a Trails Club hike.

Meeting Place

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow stationmaster's house). To get there, take exit 17 (Issaquah Front Street) from Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go about one mile through town on Front Street, then go two blocks past the light at Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left.

Clothing

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors. Expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog, and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, raingear, food, drink, matches, flashlight, and first-aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

Trail Maintenance

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet at the same place as hikes (see above). The Club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers, and other tools.

Checklist:

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

Don't leave the trailhead without them!

Trail work parties last at least four hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and is an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain.

Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by the DNR as scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility of maintaining it.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box 466, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____ Address: _____

ITEM	PRICE*	QTY.	TOTAL
Book: The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps--Revised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds	15.00**		
Book: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	15.00***		
Book: The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History	15.00		
Book: Eastside Family Hikes	3.00		
Book: Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky	15.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Tiger Mountain, 1998 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision	2.00		
Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	7.00		

*All prices include shipping and handling.

Total: _____

**One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.

***One (1) IATC Tiger Mountain Map included.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Foundation and Membership Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____



All donations are tax deductible. Your donations fund The Alpiner publication costs and the club's minimal operating costs first, with 100% of remaining funds being directed where they can best address the trail design, construction, maintenance and advocacy needs throughout the Issaquah Alps. **Note:** Membership does not require a donation; however, donations help us preserve and enhance your Issaquah Alps.

Annual donation levels:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The basic hiker.....\$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> The project supporter.....\$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The IATC sponsor.....\$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> The visionary.....\$100 and above |

IMPORTANT: This form and your donation and/or membership request form should be mailed to:
IATC Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications

See page 15 for the publications order form.

Note: All of the following prices include shipping & handling.

- ☐ ***Flowering of the Issaquah Alps***—Revised! By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, season when flowering, and where many of the plants can be found. \$9.
- ☐ ***Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and Surrounds***—By Charles McCrone. 2000 edition. Completely updated version gives historical background and descriptions for every park trail, plus 30 other trails in the surrounding area including Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and the Precipice. \$15 (includes map listed in next column).
- ☐ ***Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain***—By Bill Longwell. 2003 revised edition. Updated trail information, two new trails and numerous photographs. \$15 (includes map listed in next column).
- ☐ ***The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History*** By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald. A complete history

of the once-thriving coal mining area of Cougar Mountain now hidden from all but hikers. 100+ photographs, 4 maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$15.

- ☐ ***Eastside Family Hikes***—By Peggy Barchi. 2001 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3.
- ☐ ***Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky*** By Doug Simpson with trail descriptions by David Langrock. Provides a history of Squak Mountain and its gestation as a park. Includes 4 loop hikes covering most of the mountain trails. Includes many earlier writings by Bill Longwell and vignettes by others. \$15.
- ☐ ***Green Trails Tiger & Taylor Mountain***. Map 204S. \$7.
- ☐ ***Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains***. Map 203S. \$7.
- ☐ ***Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley***. Map 205S. \$7.
- ☐ ***Green Trails Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor***. Map 206S. \$7.
- ☐ ***IATC Tiger Mountain map***. 1998 revised. \$2.
- ☐ ***IATC Cougar Mountain map***. 2001 revised. \$2.

Issaquah Alps Trail Club
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Issaquah, WA 98027

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